

# Environmental Action **UPDATE**

A Quarterly Newsletter about the McClellan AFB Environmental Activities - California

July 1998

## McClellan Projects Pass Rigorous Review



*Jerry Vincent, EM Field Team Leader, explains a soil vapor extraction system to Vice Commander General Wiedemer during an environmental tour.*

In May, McClellan's environmental cleanup projects for fiscal years 1999 and 2000 were reviewed by a team of technical experts from the Air Force and private industry. The intense scrutiny, called peer review, is used by the Air Force (AF) to validate a base's cleanup strategies and projects for the coming years. McClellan completed its third successful year of

peer review as a closure base. The peer review team recommended that other closing bases replicate the work being done at McClellan. They strongly supported McClellan's cleanup strategies as proactive approaches to reach cleanup goals and to transfer property to the community.

The peer review team's rigorous evaluation includes: validating technical merits of proposed environmental remedial actions; ensuring remedial actions are consistent with environmental health risks and planned reuse; "firming up" remedial costs for budget submission requirements; implementing the most cost effective solution; and optimizing long term monitoring/long term operational costs.

The team consisted of Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence personnel and technical experts contracted by the AF Base Conversion Agency. Regulators from the U.S. and California Environmental Protection Agencies provided insight into federal and state regulations that drive McClellan's cleanup standards.

"In addition to project validations, one critical element that came out of this process was the group's support of the non-volatile organic compound cleanup strategy," said Elaine Anderegg, Restoration Division Chief at McClellan. The

non-volatile organic compound cleanup strategy consists of two steps: 1) dig up and treat contaminated soils to eliminate or reduce the volume of contaminated soils, and 2) consolidate remaining contaminated soils into one area on base.


*Continued on Page 2*

*Jerry Vincent explains a new technology being tested at the base to General Wiedemer.*



### On the Inside

What's on TAPP	2
Base Happenings	3
RAB Training Update	3
Upcoming Meetings	4

Consolidation will free up the majority of base property for transfer with few, if any, land restrictions. With all the contaminated soils consolidated into one manageable area, the AF will continue to invest in emerging technologies to solve the remaining contamination problems. The peer review team strongly supported this approach and recommended additional funding for technology testing over the next two years to increase the likelihood of finding ways to clean up the surface spill sites and eventually the landfills on base. The peer review process was a great success, validating McClellan's approach to cleaning up past contamination and validating specific projects for 1999 and 2000. 

## Farewell from the Editor

As all things must come to an end, so has my time at McClellan. As a liaison for the community and the base for the last four years, I've had the opportunity to share good news as well as bad, and have strived to keep information flowing both ways while addressing your concerns.

I've talked to many of you by phone and/or in person to discuss your concerns, and I have admired your patience, hospitality, and willingness to work with the base to solve problems.

I encourage you all, as community members, to continue participating through avenues like the Restoration Advisory Board. This board was created by the Department of Defense in the spirit of openness and cooperation, and the base continues to have many positive things to share with you while progress is made in the environmental cleanup.

My best to all of you,




Margaret Gidding  
Environmental Community Relations  
Coordinator

## What's on TAPP

Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) is a new Department of Defense (DoD) program that provides technical assistance for community members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The program is important to DoD and the Air Force because it helps community members further understand and give advice on technically complex cleanup programs.

Basically, TAPP facilitates public participation in the base's environmental restoration program by providing independent technical assistance, a second opinion, to community members of RABs.

Currently, base personnel are working with RAB community members to obtain a TAPP contractor. McClellan will support the technical assistance effort administratively. 

## TAPP at a Glance

- Community members design project(s) and aid in selection of provider.
- Government purchase orders procure technical assistance.
- Maximum of \$25,000 a year, or one percent of the total restoration cost, whichever is less. There is a limit, over the life of the restoration efforts, of \$100,000.

### Eligible Projects

- Document reviews
- Risk Assessment review
- Health Assessments
- Certain types of training

*The final rule was published on February 2, 1998 and was developed by a working group comprised of representatives from the different military organizations and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.*

## Staff Changes

Farewell to Jamie Cameron-Harley, Environmental Public Affairs Specialist and RAB Coordinator - thanks for all your terrific support!


Please note: Elaine Anderson's last name is now Anderegg.

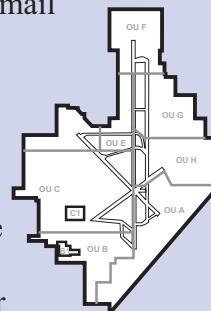
## Base Happenings

### West area creek restoration update:

The base is continuing to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create a plan to restore the environmentally sensitive areas around Don Julio and Magpie Creeks. The areas were impacted as a result of creek clearing last October in preparation of El Niño. Public meetings will be held to gather community comments and input on the restoration options. Watch for a flyer in the mail announcing the date, time and location.

### Large field effort to begin in August:

Environmental Management is gearing up for a very large investigation field effort across the base that will affect inside buildings and outdoor areas. The effort, from August through December 1998, will involve up to six drill rigs operating across the base. The work will help the base more thoroughly characterize over 120 sites basewide to support property transfer and more clearly define areas requiring further environmental cleanup. 



## Restoration Advisory Board Training Update


The Sacramento Air Quality Overview training held on May 14 was very informative. The training, given by Peter Christensen and Paul Hensleigh, Air Quality Planners for the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, highlighted several important points for Sacramento residents.

- Sacramento is designated as a “severe” non-attainment area for health-based ozone standards by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It is one of the top 10 worst air quality areas in the country. Ozone is a strong irritant that affects the respiratory system and can lead to lung tissue damage.
- Mobile sources (cars and trucks) are responsible for most (over 70%) of Sacramento’s ozone pollution.
- If Sacramento doesn’t self-regulate by taking local actions to improve, the U.S. EPA will have to implement regulations.

There are two classifications used to identify air pollution sources: stationary and mobile. The first part of the training focused on mobile sources. The training highlighted the importance of Trip

Reduction Programs, such as the base’s RideShare program, to:

- Increase awareness of available transportation options;
- Increase efficiency of existing transportation infrastructure;
- Reduce roadway construction/maintenance expenditures;
- Maintain voluntary approach;
- Offset regional growth impacts on congestion/air quality; and
- Help meet State Implementation Plan requirements for emission reductions from trip reduction and land use measures.

The stationary sources of air emissions are those tied to industrial operations. The industrial operations have permits that will transfer to new companies as they take over. All existing air permits have been updated to incorporate new requirements so companies taking over will be held to current standards. 



Check our web site:

<http://www.mcclellan.af.mil/EM>

to view documents and other information.



The *Environmental Action Update* is a publication of the Environmental Public Affairs Office at McClellan AFB, California, designed to keep the public informed of environmental activities at the base. For questions, comments, or to be added to the mailing list, please write to SM-ALC/PA, 3237 Peacekeeper Way, Suite 5, McClellan AFB, CA 95652-1044 or phone (916) 643-6128.

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**Environmental Action**  
**UPDATE**

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## Upcoming Meetings

### RAB Reuse/Technical Report Review Committee Meeting

July 9, 1998 6-8 pm  
Vineland School Auditorium  
6450 20th Street, Rio Linda

### RAB General Meeting (See Agenda Inside)

July 15, 1998 6-9 pm  
Vineland School Auditorium

### RAB Community Relations Committee Meeting

September 16, 1998 6-8 pm  
Vineland School Auditorium

## Congratulations!

Sue Sher, McClellan AFB's Cal-EPA/DTSC Public Participation specialist for the last eight years, has retired. Thank you, Sue, for all of your hard work and best wishes from the EM staff upon your retirement!

## Rideshare at McClellan as of June 1



524

Employees applying for carpool parking since January 1998.

7

Vanpools at McClellan.

894

Carpools at McClellan.

1,004

Commuter Cards for Regional Transport issued since December 1, 1997.

4,017

Transit trips taken by McClellan employees during the month of April 1998.

419

Employees who have registered for the summer "Don't Drive to Lunch" program.

Web Site:

1,217

Hits since April 27, 1998.

26

Applications for carpool partners generated.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT REMEDIAL SCOREBOARD

As of  
June 1st, 1998:

860,000

lbs. of contamination  
removed from  
soil and water.

## Environmental Action UPDATE

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